Red Deer Catholic Student Focus Groups 2010 on Technology

There were 741 students that participated in the student focus groups.

The students were asked two questions …

1. How has technology helped you learn? and
2. Are there other ways that technology could be used to help you learn better?

Students believe that technology makes learning easier and faster, that information was instantaneous and word processors allowed for great clarity and less spelling errors. When doing research, the information is more up to date with wider perspectives. Technology had far more visuals and they appreciated the interactivity that was available. The student continually mentioned that computers made learning fun. Many of them spoke of the computer as being environmentally friendly and they wished that they could get rid of textbooks and just use the computer. In addition, they felt that technology allowed them the opportunity to learn at their own pace and in a way that they learn best. They also suggested that they could research at a great depth and that technology had less restrictions on what you wanted to learn. One student suggested that “technology makes your brain work more”. Student generally felt, that technology was a great tool for learning.

The other ways that technology could help them learn were numerous. Students would really like to be able to use their own devices in schools or have more access to technology. They would like greater freedom to search and were extremely frustrated with the number websites that get blocked. Being able to use the various forms of social networking would be appreciated. Many of the students thought that gaming would be a great way to learn new material. They suggested that using of technology beyond documents, power point and smart boards would be appreciated, they suggested things like electronic books and e-readers. They also mentioned that they would like to be able to show their work in original digital ways rather than always paper and pencil would be appreciated. They would like to able to use computers to store their work rather than paper and binders. In addition, the students would like to access their work and textbooks from home. Students generally felt that technology and its potential was underutilized by teachers and students.